SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 86-104 and 106-132 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The objections to the claims is believed to be obviate by the amendment submitted above. Claims 123, 124, 125, 130, 131 and 132 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendments submitted above. Claims 103 and 125 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

This amendment does not limit the scope of Claims 103 and 125 to the mutated valyl-tRNA synthetases of *E. coli*. In fact, Claims 103 and 125 are directed to any bacterial and yeast valyl-tRNA synthases displaying a mutation that corresponds to K227Q, R223H, V276A or D230N. See the Landes et al. reference cited by the Examiner at page 8 of the Office Action. As acknowledged by the Examiner, this reference shows that amino acid residues corresponding to K227Q, R223H, V276A or D230N are conserved across the species *E. coli*, *S. cerevisia*, *N. crassa* and *B. stearothermophilus* and thus, the claimed invention can be practiced in bacteria and yeast species.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, written description, is respectfully traversed. The specification at page 6, lines 8-24, reads as follows:

> The invention also comprises a method for selecting mutant cells according to the invention, characterized in that the nucleic acid sequence of the gene encoding said amino acyl-tRNA synthetase includes at least one mutation compared with the sequence of the **corresponding wild type gene**, said mutation not having been introduced by the technique of genetic recombination...

> **Among the cells which can be used for these purposes**, mention may of course be made of **bacterial cells**, such as E. coli, but also **yeast cells**... [Emphasis added.]

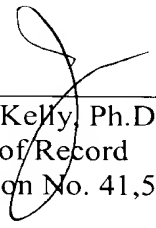
This passage reasonably conveys to one skilled in the art to transpose the E. coli mutations K227Q, R223H, V276A or D230N described in the specification to the corresponding wild-type valyl-tRNA synthetases found in other bacterial and yeast cells.

Furthermore as discusses above, the Landes et al. reference confirms that the mutated amino acids K227Q, R223H, V276A and D230N are conserved throughout bacterial and yeast valyl-tRNA synthetases. Thus, the passage cited above is sufficient to describe and enable one skilled in the art to carry out the claimed invention with respect to the mutations corresponding to K227Q, R223H, V276A and D230N. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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